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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/839,735	04/20/2001	Gregg Freishtat	P3984	3037
24739 7590 03/17/2009 CENTRAL COAST PATENT AGENCY, INC 3 HANGAR WAY SUITE D WATSONVILLE, CA 95076				
EXAMINER				
KARMIS, STEFANOS				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3693				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/17/2009		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

09/839,735

**Applicant(s)**

FREISHTAT ET AL.

**Examiner**

STEFANOS KARMIS

**Art Unit**

3693

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The following communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed 15 January 2009.

***Status of Claims***

2. Claims 32, 37 and 39 are currently amended. Claims 1-31 were previously cancelled. Therefore claims 32-41 are currently pending.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 15 January 2009 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Leary et al. (hereinafter O'Leary) U.S. Patent 6,609,113 in view of Dent et al. (hereinafter Dent) U.S.

Patent 6,128,603 in further view of Making the Smart Investment In Personal Finance Software, Working At Home (hereinafter Working At Home).

Regarding claims 32 and 37, O'Leary teaches a billing system for a network, comprising:  
a first enterprise hosing integrated transaction services provided for scraping and aggregating personal information (PI) specific to an end user, and providing PI and transaction services to the end user (column 9, line 9 thru column 10, line 13);

a plurality of second enterprises maintaining at least one financial account specific to the end user in which the end user has a monetary balance, each of the second enterprises providing account information to the first enterprise (column 10, line 59 thru column 11, line 27 and column 11, line 62 thru column 12, line 7);

a plurality of third enterprises maintaining a billing account specific to the end user, each of the third enterprises providing billing information to the first enterprise (column 23, lines 63 thru column 24, line 49).

O'Leary teaches that an interactive software graphical user interface provided by the first enterprise and executable on an end user's appliance (column 9, lines 9-30 and column 26, lines 22-59). O'Leary fails to teach at least one indication representing the user's financial account, and at least one indication representing at least one bill associated with a billing account on which a balance is owed and instructing the first enterprise to pay the bill using funds from the financial account by dragging the indication of the account to the indication of the bill.

Dent teaches a consumer based system and method for managing and paying electronic billing statements in which there exists at least one indication representing a user's financial

account (column 3, lines 38-44) and at least one indication representing at least one bill associated with a billing account for which a monetary balance is owed by the user (column 7, line 56 thru column 8, line 2). Dent further teaches instructing bill payment by dragging the indication of the bill to the account (column 8, lines 36 thru column 9, line 20 and Figure 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of O'Leary to include the drag and drop teachings of Dent since both O'Leary and Dent teach account management specifically with billing and it specifies a method for an active interaction method of bill payment that keeps the customer informed of their billing information.

O'Leary and Dent fail to teach dragging the account to the bill. Working At Home teaches personal finance software that helps to manage finances by keeping track of bank accounts, credit card accounts, expenses, taxes and income (page 2, top). One software discussed, Kiplinger's CA-Simply Money contains drag and drop buttons that allow a user to drag their checking account button and drop it on the electric company button to pay the electric bill (page 7, middle). This software therefore teaches dragging the account to the bill. Working At Home further teaches that buttons can be created for a plurality of accounts including bank accounts and credit card accounts, such as checking, savings, credit card and money market accounts (page 7, third paragraph under Kiplinger's heading). The buttons allow for performing basic finance tasks, liking scheduling payments and allow for bill payment by using a bill payment service (page 7, sixth paragraph under Kiplinger's heading). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of O'Leary in view of Dent to include the teachings of Working At Home because it

allows for the payment of bills by manipulating a graphical user-interface similar to Dent. Since only one account is required in the claim, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that dragging the account to the bill, or the bill to the account are obvious modifications since they accomplish the same instructions for payment.

Claims 33 and 38, O'Leary teaches that the network is the Internet network (column 9, lines 9-30).

Claims 34 and 39, Dent teaches at least two or more indications representing bills due (column 7, lines 56 thru column 8, line 2 and Figure 5). Dent also teaches the use of a checking account in the bill payment and also allows for the cashflow analyzer to recommend at certain times, payment to other accounts such as credit cards (column 10, lines 1-14). This recommendation is an indication of a second account. Work At Home teaches that the buttons represent multiple accounts including bank and credit card accounts (page 7, middle). Work At Home teaches dragging one of the account buttons to the bill desired to pay (page 7, middle). Dent and Work At Home teach instructing bill payment with drag and drop software and both teach the ability to use bank accounts. While Dent teaches recommending using a credit card, Dent fails to actually teach implementing the credit card as drag and drop whereas Work At Home allows for a finance button such as bank account or credit card account to be dragged and drop for payment of a bill. Therefore, the bank account or credit card account button can be dragged for payment. There is sufficient motivation to combine the teachings of O'Leary with Dent and Work At Home because they provide an efficient manner for paying bills.

Claims 35 and 40, wherein the billing information is provided to the service by the third enterprise maintaining a billing account specific to the end user (column 23, lines 63 thru column 24, line 49).

Claims 36 and 41, wherein the billing information is provided to the user and the user enters the billing information to the service utilizing the software (column 23, lines 63 thru column 24, line 49 and column 25, lines 24-41).

### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEFANOS KARMIS whose telephone number is (571)272-6744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Respectfully Submitted  
/Stefanos Karmis/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3693  
06 March 2009